

APPENDIX B

Statement of Task

Major Unit: Institute of Medicine

Division, Office, or Board: Medical Follow-Up Agency

Subject: Strategies to Protect the Health of Deployed U.S. Forces, Subtask 2.4

Staff Officer Name: Lois Joellenbeck

Statement of Task: The project will advise DoD [U.S. Department of Defense] on a long-term strategy for protecting the health of our nation's military personnel when deployed to unfamiliar environments. Drawing on the lessons of previous conflicts, it will advise the DoD with regard to a strategy for managing the health and exposure issues faced during deployments; these include infectious agents, vaccines, drug interactions, and stress. It also will include adverse reactions to chemical or biological warfare agents and other substances. The project will address the problem of limited and variable data in the past, and in the development of a prospective strategy for improved handling of health and exposure issues in future deployments.

Subtask 2.4 concerns medical protection, health consequences and treatment, and medical record keeping. Specific issues to be addressed include:

- Prevention of adverse health outcomes that could result from exposures to threats and risks including chemical warfare and biological warfare, infectious disease, psychological stress, heat and cold injuries, unintentional injuries;
 - Requirements for compliance with active duty retention standards;
 - Pre-deployment screening, physical evaluation, risk education for troops and medical personnel;
 - Vaccine and other prophylactic agents;

- Improvements in risk communication with military personnel in order to minimize stress casualties among exposed, or potentially exposed personnel;
- Improvements in the reintegration of all troops to the home environment;
- Treatment of the health consequences of prevention failures, including battle injuries, DNBI [disease and non-battle injury], acute management, and long term follow-up;
- Surveillance for short- and long-term outcomes, to include adverse reproductive outcomes; and
- Improvement in keeping medical records, perhaps using entirely new technology, in documenting exposures, treatment, tracking of individuals through the medical evacuation system, and health/administrative outcomes.

Sponsor(s): Department of Defense

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